

Landscape From The Ground Up With A Well-Cared-For Lawn

Your lawn is to your garden as your carpeting is to the interior of your home. Thought of in this way your lawn should affect your choice in the types of shrubbery, trees, flowers and other plant accessories best suited for your garden.

Your lawn can be a showplace and also have practical functions such as stabilizing mud and dust problems, muffling noise pollution, and providing a cool and comfortable recreation surface.

It can, in short, offer escape from a concrete and black top world.

A quality lawn requires that we stick to three basic principles of lawn care.

1. Select turfgrass adapted to the specific environment and soil conditions.

2. Be careful to follow the right mowing procedures.

3. Insure proper soil conditions by fertilizing to meet minimum nutritional requirements.

THE CORRECT TURFGRASS

Permanent turfgrasses, such as Kentucky Bluegrass and Red Fescue, should compose a major portion of most lawn turfs in Michigan.

Low priced, rapid-growing seed mixtures are generally a poor buy since they may contain large quantities of temporary and weedy perennial grasses which may spoil a lawn.

In dry, shaded areas plant a shade-

tolerant variety like creeping red fescue. Available varieties include Pennlawn, Wintergreen, Rainier, Illahee, Olds, and Trinity Red Fescue, which spread by underground creeping stems, and Chewings Red Fescue, which has a bunch type growth habit.

Pentlawn has been the preferred red fescue variety in Michigan owing to its superior drought recovery capability and better low temperature tolerance.

Kentucky Bluegrass is the most widely used turfgrass in Michigan and is best adapted to well-drained, fine textured, fertile soils. It is a perennial, cool-season species which has good sod-forming characteristics.

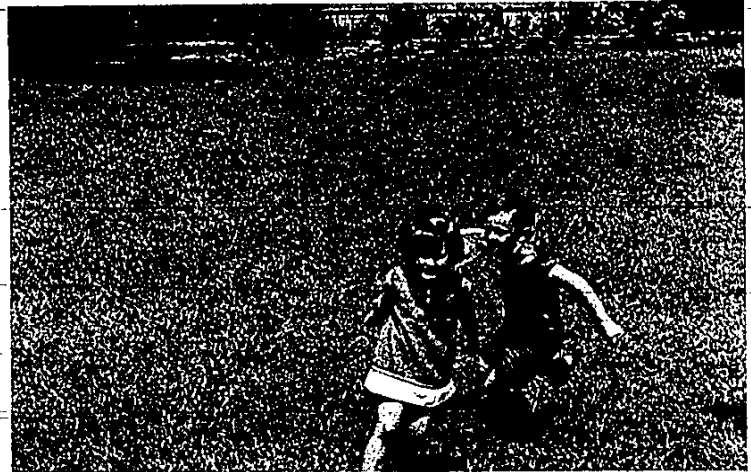
If your lawn area is moist and shaded, rough bluegrass is recommended. But this variety will not tolerate traffic or hot, dry conditions.

CORRECT MOWING

Mowing height depends on the grass variety. Generally the popular grasses and their suggested mowing heights are:

- Kentucky Blue -- 1 1/2" to 2"
- Fescues -- 1 1/2" to 2"
- Bent grasses -- 1/4" to 1/2"
- Merion Blue -- 2" to 2 1/4"

Frequency of mowing depends on the growth rate of the turf. You should not remove more than one-quarter to one-third of the total leaf area at any one mowing. Also, vary the direction of mowing.



An attractive lawn is not only pleasing to the eye, it is also a "natural" playground and recreation facility for the entire family.

PROPER SOIL CONDITION

A vigorous, attractive turf requires adequate fertilization. A reliable soil test for pH, phosphorus and potassium every five years can be helpful in planning a program for fertilizing a lawn.

You can obtain a representative soil sample by collecting 15 to 20 small samples with a narrow garden tool or soil probe from widely scattered areas in the lawn.

These should be taken to a depth of about 3 inches with the grass and

thatch discarded.

The soil should be mixed well, airdried, and sent to a modern soil testing laboratory for analysis. Specify whether it represents a new or an established lawn.

If a soil test is not available for an established lawn, selection of a fertilizer high in nitrogen, but containing some phosphorus and potassium is suggested at least once a year.

Subsequent fertilization may be with the same fertilizer or nitrogen only.

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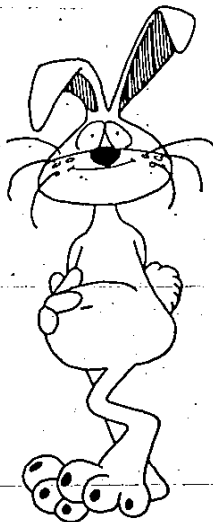
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